

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Takashi Ootawara, et al. **Examiner:** Unassigned
Serial No: To be assigned **Art Unit:** Unassigned
Filed: Herewith **Docket:** 15163
For: ENDOSCOPE AND ENDOSCOPE SYSTEM THEREOF **Dated:** December 14, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese Patent Application No. 11-4804, dated January 12, 1999;
2. Japanese Patent Application No. 60-184506, dated December 7, 1985;
3. Japanese Patent Application No. 8-243076, dated September 24, 1996;
4. Japanese Patent Application No. 5-76478, dated March 30, 1993;

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

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Date of Deposit: December 14, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 14, 2001.

Dated: December 14, 2001

/s/ Michelle Mustafa
Michelle Mustafa

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5. Japanese Patent Application No. 7-148104, dated June 13, 1995;
6. Japanese Patent Application No. 59-37923, dated March 1, 1984;
7. Japanese Patent Application No. 5-146397, dated June 15, 1993;
8. Japanese Patent Application No. 9-10220, dated January 14, 1997;
9. Japanese Patent Application No. 7-327918, dated December 19, 1995;
10. Japanese Patent Application No. 7-303, dated January 6, 1995;
11. Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-37710, dated February 13, 2001;
12. Japanese Patent Application No. 5-103757, dated April 27, 1993;
13. Japanese Patent Application No. 9-234182, dated September 9, 1997;
14. Japanese Patent Application No. 9-253036, dated September 30, 1997;
15. Japanese Patent Application No. 7-194524, dated August 1, 1995;
16. Japanese Patent Application No. 6-285014, dated October 11, 1994;
17. Japanese Patent Application No. 6-66609, dated September 20, 1994;
18. Japanese Patent Application No. 6-64609, dated September 13, 1994;
19. Japanese Patent Application No. 64-25833, dated January 27, 1989;
20. Japanese Patent Application No. 63-46107, dated March 29, 1988;
21. Japanese Patent Application No. 8-38612, dated February 13, 1996;
22. Japanese Patent Application No. 9-66109, dated March 11, 1997;
23. Japanese Patent Application No. 9-75296, dated March 25, 1997;
24. Japanese Patent Application No. 59-93502, dated June 25, 1984;
25. Japanese Patent Application No. 56-23501, dated March 3, 1981;
26. Japanese Patent Application No. 10-118014, dated May 12, 1998;
27. Japanese Patent Application No. 62-87604, dated June 4, 1987;

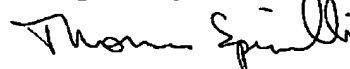
28. Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-23904, dated January 25, 2000;
29. Japanese Patent Application No. 11-47080, dated February 23, 1999;
30. Japanese Patent Application No. 2-103009, dated April 16, 1990;
31. Japanese Patent Application No. 7-313441, dated December 5, 1995; and
32. U.S. Patent No. 5,921,971, dated July 13, 1999, issued to Agro et al.

References 1-31 were cited in a Search Report received from the Japanese Patent Office dated July 17, 2001. Reference 32 has been described in the specification.

Applicants are submitting copies of the above-cited references, together with a copy of the Search Report. The relevance of references 1-31 has been described in the Search Report.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Spinelli
Registration No.: 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

TS:cm

